

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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BERTRAM P. BROWN, M.D., Director

# Weekly Bulletin

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## *Health Officers Going to San Diego*

The League of California Cities has announced that approximately 1500 city officials and employees will gather in San Diego beginning September 16 to discuss many important problems that face California communities today. National defense and national preparedness constitute the key subjects for discussion. Headquarters will be the San Diego Hotel.

The general banquet for the league will be held on Wednesday night, September 18. Governor Culbert L. Olson will talk upon the role of states in the national defense. Professor Samuel C. May, chairman of the executive committee of the California Council of Defense, will present the subject "The Role of the Cities in the National Defense." Ranking commanding officers of the military service located in the San Diego area will be guests of honor.

The general luncheon of the league will be held Thursday, the last day of the conference. The annual informal party will be held Monday night in the San Diego Hotel and will include dancing, entertainment and refreshments. On Tuesday afternoon, September 17, a harbor trip around San Diego Bay and Point Loma has been arranged. A golf tournament for officials has been scheduled for this year. Health officers who are golfers may desire to participate in this tournament.

The annual banquet for the Department of Health Officers will be held Tuesday night, September 17.

On that same evening there will be a band concert at the Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park.

The entertainment for women guests will reach a new high. On Monday afternoon, a tea will be held at the residence of Mayor Benbough. Transportation to this event will be provided. On Wednesday afternoon women will be guests of the city of San Diego at an informal reception at the House of Hospitality in Balboa Park. Arrangements are being made for women guests to see San Diego's Balboa Park and its zoo. Wives and daughters of health officers are invited to participate in these entertainment features.

The program for the Department of Health Officers is completed and will be published in an early issue of the Weekly Bulletin. Health officers will probably have little opportunity to partake of the entertainment features because of the importance of the subjects that will be discussed at the meetings of health officers. There is every indication that a large attendance of these officials will be present in San Diego, and because of the importance of public health in preparations for defense, no health officer can afford to miss the discussions that will be held.

Never attempt to bear more than one kind of trouble at once. Some people bear three kinds—all they have had, all they have now, and all they expect to have.—Edward E. Hale.

## RABIES INCUBATION PERIOD IN ANIMALS MAY BE LONG

Dr. J. C. Geiger, Director of Public Health, San Francisco, has provided the following interesting report on an extended incubation period for rabies in a dog.

"A dog from 20 Southwood Drive was bitten on April 16, 1940, by a sick stray dog which was later proved rabid. The wound was on the left hind leg and stated to have been slight. The dog was taken to the pound on April 19, 1940, and returned home on July 19, 1940, apparently well. It had not come in contact with other dogs, having been in strict quarantine in the pound.

"Because of vermin infestation it was subsequently clipped and bathed and returned home from the pound on July 20, 1940. The dog was again returned to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and bathed on July 31, 1940. The dog was admitted to a private veterinary hospital on August 3, 1940, because of a slight illness. It became gradually worse and died on August 6. Microscopic examination of the brain gave positive evidence of rabies. Therefore, this is an incubation period of 113 days, the longest ever recorded in the history of rabies in San Francisco. This is most interesting and important in view of the fact that the ordinary quarantine period for any dog that has been bitten by another rabid dog is three months.

"The owner was bitten in April, 1940, and the Pasteur treatment was administered. The owner was again bitten by this animal and another course of Pasteur treatment has been suggested.

"It should again be emphasized that strict observance of the quarantine of dogs and cats is necessary. The San Francisco Police and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have again been requested to take precautions regarding the control of stray animals on the streets."

## FOODS HELD IN QUARANTINE

During the month of July the following products were held in quarantine: 672,000 pounds of food products, 5,800 cans of assorted goods, 112,000 gallons of wine, 3,000 gallons of whiskey, 2,200 gallons of olive oil, 4,500 cases of assorted drugs. During the month food and drug products totaling 161,300 pounds and 56,470 gallons of wine were released from quarantine. During the month, 15,700 pounds of food products, 11,300 gallons of wine, 143 gallons of olive oil, and 817 cases of assorted drugs were destroyed because of their unfitness for human consumption.

## CENSUS BUREAU GETS MARRIAGE RECORDS

The U. S. Bureau of the Census for many years has received copies of all birth and death certificates that are filed in California. In addition to these, the bureau has now requested that copies of all marriage certificates be sent regularly to Washington for statistical purposes.

In those states where divorce records are collected by a central agency, copies of such records are also now being sent to Washington. In California divorce records are filed only in the counties within which decrees have been entered, and there is no central clearing house that is able to provide copies of such records.

The collection of marriage certificates by the Census Bureau will enable the Department of Commerce to prepare comprehensive statistics that will be issued along with tabulations for births and deaths.

Since the premarital examination law went into effect last September, marriages in California have dropped almost 40 per cent, but as anticipated, fewer brides and bridegrooms are now leaving California for their weddings, and there is an indication that California's marriage rate will continue the rise that started recently.

## EPIDEMIC POLIOMYELITIS REPORTED

During June, 74 cases of epidemic poliomyelitis were reported throughout the state, as compared with 49 in June of 1939 and 8 cases in June of 1938. The present incidence is higher than would be expected on the basis of the trend of the disease since the first of January of this year. Of the 74 cases reported, 37 occurred in a single county. At the time of the investigation late in June, there were 14 cases in the hospital. Of the 37 cases reported in this county 2 have proved fatal. Several reported cases are suggestive of encephalitis.

## PSITTACOSIS CONTROL

During the month of July, 122 interstate shipping certificates were issued for 1,407 shell parakeets and 156 larger psittacine birds. Also 86 shell parakeet aviaries were inspected.

## COLD STORAGE ACT

Inspection of local cold storage plants, in July, resulted in the placing under quarantine of several lots of poultry totaling 17,595 pounds. This material had been held longer than the one-year period which is permissible under this law, and was found rancid.

## POST-GRADUATE COURSES AND INSTITUTES

During July, post-graduate courses for physicians and dentists, institutes for nurses and a conference on school health education were conducted under the auspices of the Bureau of Child Hygiene. An institute on maternity nursing service was conducted during the first twenty days of July under the leadership of the Department of Hygiene, University of California. Nurses from all parts of the state were enrolled. Members of the bureau staff gave special lectures and demonstrations.

A refresher course in children's dentistry was given at the University of California July 15 to 20. Dentists, cooperating with the Bureau of Child Hygiene Dental Services attended this course.

A series of pediatric and obstetrics postgraduate courses sponsored by five western states began at the University of California, School of Medicine, July 8. Nine California physicians attended the first series for pediatrics and 7 attended the course for obstetrics, which was given from July 22 to 27, and 4 took the final course in pediatrics, July 29 to August 10.

In cooperation with the State Department of Education, the bureau sponsored a conference on school health education held at the University of California July 22 to 25, where 269 nurses, physicians, teachers and other individuals were registered.

## ENCEPHALITIS CASES INVESTIGATED

During July, field investigations into encephalitis were made in the counties of Sacramento, San Joaquin, Merced, Stanislaus, Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kern. A number of cases of the disease were seen in county hospitals. A rapid increase in the incidence of the disease was noted particularly among the younger age groups. Investigations are under way to determine the relationship between encephalitis in horses and in human beings, with the possibility that mosquitoes may be vectors of the disease.

## CHOPPED MEAT

Two San Joaquin butchers who offered adulterated hamburger for sale were prosecuted during July, both pleading guilty. Fines of \$100 and \$50, respectively, were imposed. In cooperation with the Long Beach City Health Department, the use of preservatives in chopped meat in this area was investigated. At the request of the Monterey County Health Department, similar activities were undertaken in that county.

## FOOD POISONING REPORTED

Among forty people who recently attended a picnic in Solano County, nine developed nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and prostration from 2½ to 4 hours after eating. The acute symptoms lasted for about 12 hours. It was found that corned pork was probably responsible for the outbreak.

About one-half of the girls in an institutional camp in Riverside County became ill. While they were not all ill at the same time, there was every indication from clinical symptoms and epidemiology that food poisoning was responsible for the illness. No definite source of the poisoning has been determined as yet, however.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER

During July, four cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever were investigated in California. One case in Santa Barbara was in a man who had been prospecting in Nevada and had been bitten by wood ticks while there. Another case in Orange County was in a man who had been working in the oil fields of Texas, and who gave a history of having been in contact with individuals suffering from typhus in that state. Another case occurred in San Diego County in an employee of a lumber company in a community where several cases have occurred in the last few years. A fourth case was in a woman residing in Los Angeles County. While her case is not typical of typhus, confirmatory laboratory work is now in progress.

## INCIDENCE OF REPORTABLE DISEASES

During July whooping cough was three times more prevalent as it was during July of last year. Measles was greatly reduced in prevalence over the corresponding month of 1939. Nominal increases are noted in case reports of tuberculosis, syphilis and gonococcus infection. Health conditions throughout the state are excellent.

## EGG PRODUCTS

Frozen eggs imported from without California totaling 482,730 pounds were inspected during the month, and 14,785 pounds of powdered eggs checked for proper certificates of inspection. Two carloads totaling 71,850 pounds from the above were placed under quarantine due to the fact that they were found to be unfit for human consumption. This lot is being held for further disposition.

## MORBIDITY

## Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending August 17, 1940

## Chickenpox

79 cases: Berkeley 2, Oakland 4, San Leandro 2, Contra Costa County 2, Fresno County 3, Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 7, Alhambra 1, Compton 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 8, Pasadena 3, San Gabriel 1, King City 2, Fullerton 1, Orange 3, Santa Ana 1, Laguna Beach 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego County 4, Coronado 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 12, Stockton 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Maria 3, Los Gatos 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Yreka 1, Solano County 1, Vallejo 1, Sonoma County 1, Davis 1.

## Diphtheria

7 cases: Los Angeles County 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego 1, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo 2, Yreka 1.

## German Measles

19 cases: Los Angeles County 2, Huntington Park 2, Los Angeles 5, Napa 1, Orange County 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana 1, Ontario 1, National City 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 2, San Joaquin County 1.

## Influenza

9 cases: Los Angeles County 2, San Diego County 1, Sonoma County 6.

## Malaria

11 cases: Gridley 1, Fresno County 1, Kern County 4, Kings County 1, San Francisco 1, Sonoma County 1, Sutter County 1, Winters 1.

## Measles

56 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Fresno 1, Glenn County 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 4, Los Angeles 3, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, South Gate 1, Signal Hill 1, Gustine 1, Palm Springs 1, San Bernardino County 1, Ontario 2, San Diego County 2, Oceanside 3, San Francisco 2, Lodi 1, San Luis Obispo County 2, San Luis Obispo 4, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 15, Sonoma County 1, Oxnard 1, Ventura 1, Marysville 1.

## Mumps

105 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 6, Chico 1, Fresno County 2, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 17, Glendale 3, Long Beach 12, Los Angeles 8, Pasadena 1, Whittier 1, Hawthorne 1, Bell 1, Orange County 3, Anaheim 1, Orange 2, Seal Beach 1, La Habra 2, Tustin 1, Plumas County 1, Riverside County 1, Corona 7, Riverside 2, San Bernardino County 2, San Diego County 3, San Diego 3, San Francisco 8, Belmont 1, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 1, Palo Alto 7, Ventura County 1, Yuba County 1.

## Pneumonia (Lobar)

27 cases: Oakland 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 3, Alhambra 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 10, Manhattan 1, Redondo 1, South Gate 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 3.

## Scarlet Fever

50 cases: Oakland 1, Butte County 1, Fresno County 1, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 6, Glendale 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 8, South Pasadena 1, South Gate 1, Bell 2, Madera 1, Merced County 2, Orange County 2, Roseville 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 1, Ontario 1, San Diego County 1, San Francisco 2, Lodi 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Watsonville 1, Sonoma County 2, Tehama County 1, Tuolumne County 1, Ventura County 1, Woodland 3.

## Smallpox

No cases reported.

## Typhoid Fever

4 cases: Sacramento 1, San Francisco 1, California 2.\*

## Whooping Cough

337 cases: Alameda County 6, Alameda 6, Berkeley 3, Oakland 16, San Leandro 2, Pinole 1, Fresno County 5, Fresno 5, Kern County 3, Lakeport 2, Los Angeles County 33, Arcadia 3, Compton 2, Huntington Park 2, La Verne 1, Los Angeles 69, Monrovia 4, Pasadena 14, Pomona 1, Redondo 1, San Fernando 9, Santa Monica 1, Torrance 2, South Gate 12, Bell 2, Madera County 1, Monterey County 4, Monterey 1, Orange County 3, Anaheim 5, Santa Ana 1, Placentia 4, Roseville 1, Plumas County 7, Riverside County 1, Indio 2, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 8, Escondido 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 28, San Joaquin County 3, Stockton 3, Paso Robles 1, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 1, San Mateo 2, Santa Barbara County 5, Lompoc 5, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Maria 4, Santa Clara County 3, Los Gatos 1, Palo Alto 5, San Jose 2, Santa Cruz 2, Watsonville 2, Vallejo 1, Santa Rosa 1, Stanislaus County 6, Ventura County 2, Santa Paula 2, Ventura 3, California 1.\*

## Dysentery (Amoebic)

4 cases: Alameda County 1, Napa 1, Ontario 1, Ventura County 1.

## Dysentery (Bacillary)

11 cases: Los Angeles 2, Gardena 1, Santa Clara County 1, Sonoma County 5, Tulare County 1, Tulare 1.

## Poliomyelitis

23 cases: Kern County 2, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 3, Glendale 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 8, Bell 1, Mono County 1, Roseville 1, Sacramento 1, Santa Barbara 1, Redding 1, Sonoma County 1.

## Tetanus

2 cases: Los Angeles.

## Trachoma

One case: Salinas.

## Encephalitis (Epidemic)

6 cases: Fresno County 2, Kern County 1, Hanford 1, Sacramento 1, Sutter County 1.

## Trichinosis

One case: Eureka.

## Jaundice (Epidemic)

One case: Oakland.

## Food Poisoning

2 cases: San Joaquin County.

## Undulant Fever

5 cases: Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 1, Maywood 1, Fort Bragg 1, National City 1.

## Relapsing Fever

One case: California.\*

## Epilepsy

49 cases: Oakland 1, Los Angeles County 3, Los Angeles 21, Pasadena 1, Monterey Park 1, San Quentin 2, Napa County 1, Brea 1, Sacramento 7, Oceanside 2, San Francisco 5, Santa Clara County 3, Vallejo 1.

## Rabies (Animal)

5 cases: Calexico 1, Los Angeles County 1, San Francisco 1, Redwood City 1, Tulare County 1.

\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

"The greatest asset of any community is the life and health of its citizens. Men in public life today know that much of the tremendous economic loss resulting from injuries, sickness and death would be preventable if available knowledge were more generally understood and applied. While some progress has been made, especially during the past decade, it is still estimated that sickness and premature death in the United States involve a direct cost of more than two billion dollars annually for medical services. Besides this, there is a loss of two per cent in useful industrial or commercial productivity. Naturally, the taxpayers bear that cost and thus have a tremendous stake in public health. Unfortunately, it would seem that all taxpayers are certainly not getting the public health services to which their contribution to the general welfare would seem to entitle them."—Dr. Ira V. Heacock.

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